



THE 18th COLLOQUE OF FRANCOPHONE ANTHROPOLOGISTS, L'ESCALA (SPAIN)

The latest session of the regional organization of Francophone anthropologists was held in the Catalan health resort L'Escala (Spain) on October 21–24, 1987. The event was prepared by Professor Jaume Betranpetit of the Anthropological Laboratory of the Biological Faculty of the Barcelona University, assisted by Professor Maria Dolores Garralda, of the Anthropological Laboratory, of the "Universidad Complutense", in Madrid. The session was attended by more than 50 anthropologists, palaeopathologists and archaeologists from France, Spain, Belgium, Italy, Switzerland and Czechoslovakia.

The first day of the colloque was dedicated to palaeopathology, and was presided by Christiane Kramar from Geneva. The attention of the participants was ingrossed by a paper on trigonocephaly, with special reference to identification of the skull of W. A. Mozart, by a survey of palaeopathological finds from the ossuary in Anjou (France) including probably also a case of Paget's disease, and by the results of a microscopic, physical and chemical examination of a concretion from a dolmen in Aude (France), in which—most probably—a caseified ganglion was identified (TB or histoplasmosis), the results of a similar examination of an urolith, a contribution to the study of the problem of thalassaemia, new cases of spinal tuberculosis from Ancient Egypt, enthesopathy found in a Meso-Neolithic population in Mali, study on the erosion at the distal end of tibiae and the results of the attempts to determine blood groups of Egyptian mummies from their hair. The proceedings of the first day were complemented by a poster showing palaeopathological findings on the skeleton of an individual from the earlier phase of the Upper Palaeolithic found near Tahta in Upper Egypt.

The agenda of the second and third day of the session presided by Professor Bernard Vandermeersch and by André Leguebe, dealt with the development of the populations in the western Mediterranean region, beginning with the skull of a 5 year old child from Orca (Early Palaeolithic). Further the contribution of the remains from Devil's Tower to the study of the ontogenesis of the Neanderthals, the comparison of Mousterian finds of skeletal remains of children from Jebel Irhoud with European Neanderthal finds of similar age and an outline of relations between Northern and Southern Pacific in the anthropological picture of the Upper Pleistocene were discussed.

The latest finds of skeletal remains from the region of Hassi el-Abiod, north of Timbuktu in Mali (dated at about 5 000 B.C.), are of great importance for studies on the development of the North African Cro-Magnon people. These finds remind of the older population of the Mechta-Afalou type. The project of Dr. Rosina Orban from Brussels to set up an automatic catalogue comprising all fossil human finds beginning with the year 1971 attracted attention of the participants. Many papers dealt with finds of anthropological series from various periods and regions in Spain adding greatly to our knowledge of the Greek and Phoenician-Punic colonizations of the Mediterranean coast of the Iberian Peninsula in the light of the archaeological finds. As regards "living" anthropology, the papers dealt with the growth and alimentation of sucklings in the Algerian town of Mostagan and with the effect of the mesological factors on the morphology of the Algerian children and adults; other researchers focused on the maturing of girls in Andalusia, the fertility of the population of the Western Mediterranean, Mediterranean haemo-

typology as regards Afro-European relations, the haemotypology of the Island of Menorca, development of the population of the Catalanian Pyrenees and dermatoglyphics of the inhabitants of the town of Gerona.

The last day of the session, reserved for papers not fitting any of the above groups, was chaired by Eugen Strouhal. The papers tackled a great variety of topics, including the haematological and serological values of geronts, dermatoglyphics of rare genetic syndroms, demography of the French rural population affected by vocationally-conditioned migration, mathematic modelling of ethnographic distributions, dimensions of teeth of Neanderthals compared with their predecessors and successors, the morphological features of the population of Normandy, seroanthropological research into the Rumanian-speaking (Olah) Gipsies and the comparison of blood polymorphisms of the European Gipsy populations.

The agenda of the colloque was combined with a trip to the ruins of the ancient Greek and Roman town of Ampurias in the outskirts of L'Escala.

Eugen Strouhal

*THE ORIGIN OF HUMAN LANGUAGE.
AN ANTHROPOLOGICAL APPROACH*

Prof. Brunetto Chiarelli with profs. P. Lieberman and J. Wind organized in 8–22 July 1988 a special meeting on this subject in Corbona, 50 km South-East of Florence. This gave to the participants a good possibility of prolonged discussions and exchange of views.

Invited lectures and lecturers:

ANDERSON J. A. (Brown Univ., USA). Why is a bigger brain a better brain: Scaling in constructionist network. BICKHAKJIAN B. (University of Nijmegen, Netherlands). The evolutionary evidence from historical linguistics for the study of the origin of language. BOEHM C. (Northern Kentucky Univ., USA). CHIARELLI B. (Univ., Florence). Cerebral lateralization and the origin of language in man. GARDNER B. T. (Univ. Nevada, USA). Language in non-human animals. HEWES G. (Univ. Colorado). Gestural communication. HOLLOWAY R. (Columbia Univ.). Brain evolution. LAITMAN J. (Mt. Sinai Hospital of New York, USA). The evolution of the supralaryngeal airway. LIEBERMAN P. (Brown Univ., USA). The evolution of the oral tract. MANLEY G. H. (Biology, McGill Univ., Montreal, Canada). Auditory systems: comparative communication. VON RAFFLER-ENGEL W. (Vanderbilt Univ., USA). Psycholinguistics. SCHMANDT-BESSERAT D. (Univ. Colorado). Origins of writing and counting. TOBIAS P. V. (Univ. Witwatersrand). The fossil evidence. TOTH N. (U.C. Berkeley, USA). The evidence for lateralization in early hominids. WIND J. (Free Univ. Amsterdam, Netherlands). The emergence of speech.

Several additional contributions were presented. The goal of the meeting was to develop a synthesis of viewpoints and data on linguistic psychological, anatomical and behavioural studies on living species of Primates and to provide a comparative framework for the evolution of paleoanthropological studies. The Proceedings will be published in the NATO ASI series by Springer-Verlag. Selected contributions will appear in "Human Evolution" edited by B. Chiarelli.

J. Jelínek